State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services

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TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS   Letter No.:16-21
                      ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
                      ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
                      ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
                      ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE, ELIGIBILITY,
                      ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION SYSTEM CHANGE REQUEST
                      32277 ON IMMIGRANT ELIGIBILITY AND THE ON-LINE PORTAL

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with information about the implementation of California Healthcare, Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) Change Request (CR) 32277. CR 32277 makes improvements to CalHEERS functionality relating to determination of eligibility based on immigration status implemented in release 16.7 on August 1, 2016.

Overview of the Current CalHEERS Online Portal Relating to Immigrants
The current CalHEERS online portal includes the following elements for determining the eligibility of immigrants for Medi-Cal coverage:

- A question about whether or not the applicant is a citizen or national of the United States.

- A question for non-citizens about whether or not the applicant has "satisfactory immigration status".

- Immigrants who claim satisfactory immigration status are provided with a dropdown menu to select an immigration document (and to input relevant document information) and are asked a question about whether or not they are a qualified non-citizen.

CalHEERS Online Portal Changes Implemented by CR 32277
CR 32277 makes the following changes to the CalHEERS online portal:

- The question "Are You an Eligible Immigrant?" (Y/N) has been removed from the CalHEERS portal.

- The immigration document drop-down menu now includes the following new document type: "Document or status not listed".

- The following new question has been added to the CalHEERS portal: "Please select the immigration status that best applies", along with a drop down menu with the following statuses listed:

  - A conditional entrant admitted to the United States before April 1, 1980
  - An alien paroled into the United States, including Cuban/Haitian entrants
  - An alien subject to an Order of Supervision
  - An alien granted an indefinite stay of deportation
  - An alien granted an indefinite voluntary departure
  - An alien on whose behalf an immediate relative petition (INS Form I-130) has been approved and who is entitled to voluntary departure
  - An alien who has properly filed an application for lawful permanent resident status
  - An alien granted a stay of deportation for a specified period
  - An alien granted asylum
  - A refugee admitted to the United States since April 1, 1980
  - An alien granted voluntary departure who is awaiting issuance of a visa
  - An alien in deferred action status
  - An alien who entered and has continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1972, who would be eligible for an adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident pursuant to INA Section 249 (eligible as a Registry Alien)
  - An alien granted a suspension of deportation whose departure INS does not contemplate enforcing
  - An alien granted withholding of deportation pursuant to INA Section 243(h)
  - Document or status not listed

NOTE: Counties should only send the applicant the MC 13 when necessary to determine whether or not an individual is claiming to be in a satisfactory immigration status or when the individual selects "Document or status not listed" from both the immigration document and the immigration status drop down menus.

Impact of CR 32277 on Medi-Cal Eligibility
In general, implementation of CR 32277 will not change how CalHEERS determines Medi-Cal eligibility for applicants who select a document and/or one of the statuses listed on the new immigration status drop-down menu. Otherwise eligible applicants who select a document, and/or an immigration status from these menus will be granted conditional full scope Medi-Cal. Eligibility will be conditional for up to the 90-day Reasonable Opportunity Period (ROP) for individuals who are otherwise eligible if immigration status needs to be administratively verified.

One exception to this general rule is for immigrants who select "Document or status not listed" on both the document type and immigration status drop-down menus. Individuals who make these selections will be granted restricted scope Medi-Cal if they are 19 years of age or older. Immigrants who are under 19 years of age will be granted full scope regardless of immigration status or document type if otherwise eligible.

Counties must provide an MC 13 to every applicant over 19 who indicates that their document <u>and</u> their status are not listed. The MC 13 must be provided so that applicants have the opportunity to claim one of the statuses listed on that form and receive full-scope coverage. However, counties must not delay, deny or discontinue Medi-Cal eligibility solely for failure to respond to a request for the MC 13. When an MC 13 is needed, otherwise eligible individuals who are 19 years of age or older qualify for restricted scope Medi-Cal even if they do not complete the MC13.

Implementation of CR 32277 in the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS)
The changes made to the CalHEERS online portal will not be implemented in SAWS as part of CR 32277. An upcoming change request has been opened at CalHEERS to further improve the CalHEERS functionality and integrate the changes in SAWS. However, because the electronic Health Information Transfer (eHIT) schema has not yet been updated to fully integrate the changes included in CR 32277, it will be necessary for county eligibility workers to understand how to address some scenarios in which immigration status is not verified by the Federal Data Services Hub with the implementation of CR 32277. Those scenarios will be explained below. The impact of CR 32277 changes can be summarized as follows[1]:

- The additional immigration document category of "Document or status not listed" and the new immigration document menu options are not included in the current eHIT schema.

- The current eHIT schema still includes the "Eligible Immigrant" (Y/N) question. County staff can indicate in SAWS "Eligible Immigrant" (Y/N) and this data will be sent to CalHEERS via eHIT and it will not be visible in CalHEERS, but will be

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[1] Specific instructions for sending information via eHIT may vary among SAWS consortia

retained in the CalHEERS database. Additionally, if an applicant selects any of the listed documents in CalHEERS, this data will be sent to SAWS as "YES" for "Eligible Immigrant". As explained below, CalHEERS will populate that question with a "YES" in the eHIT schema ONLY if an applicant chooses one of the listed documents on the document drop down menu other than "Document or status not listed".

- If an applicant selects one of the listed documents from the document menu (with the exception of "Document or status not listed") or one of the listed statuses from the new immigration status menu (with the exception of "Document or status not listed") conditional full scope Medi-Cal will be granted if otherwise eligible. If immigration status is not verified by the Federal Data Services Hub, eligibility will be conditional full scope during the ROP while status is verified.

Immigration Status and Document Information Transmission
Until the eHIT schema and the SAWS systems are updated to fully integrate the CalHEERS functionality added by CR 32277, there are certain scenarios that eligibility workers must understand to ensure that immigration status is properly verified, and to ensure that an MC 13 is sent to applicants when that is necessary to determine an individual's attested immigration status. Those scenarios are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1 provides an overview of how CalHEERS will populate the "Eligible Immigrant" indicator in the current eHIT schema after CR 32277 is implemented and the benefits that will be granted based on selections made on the immigration document and immigration status drop-down menus. Determination of full scope eligibility does not change with the implementation of CR 32277 for immigrants who select a document type and are otherwise eligible. In that case, full scope eligibility is still based on the option selected from the immigration document drop-down menu. Restricted scope eligibility is also granted based on responses on those menus after implementation of CR 32277. However, because the "Document or status not listed" option and the new immigration status menu options are not yet included in the eHIT schema, that information will not be sent to SAWS when it is selected. The scenarios in Table 1 explain how CalHEERS will respond to the selections communicated through the immigration document and immigration status menus on the CalHEERS portal. Current policy applies when immigration status cannot be electronically verified and conditional eligibility is granted.

Scenario 1
A document other than "Document or status not listed" is selected from the document drop-down menu and a status other than "Document or status not listed" is selected from the new immigration status menu. When that occurs, the system will grant full scope Medi-Cal and will populate the "Eligible Immigrant" indicator with "YES" in the eHIT schema if the applicant is otherwise eligible. This eligibility outcome is based on selection of a document other than "Document or status not listed" from the document drop down menu.

Scenario 2
A document other than "Document or status not listed" is selected from the document drop-down menu and "Document or status not listed" is selected from the new immigration status menu. When that occurs, the system will grant full scope Medi-Cal, if otherwise eligible, and will populate the "Eligible Immigrant" indicator with "YES" in the eHIT schema. This eligibility outcome is based on selection of one of the listed immigration documents from the document drop down menu.

Scenario 3
The applicant selects "Document or status not listed" from the document menu, and an immigration status other than "Document or status not listed", from the status menu. The system will grant full scope Medi-Cal based on the selection of one of the listed immigration statuses, but will populate the "Eligible Immigrant" indicator with "NO" because "Document or status not listed" was chosen from the document drop-down menu. When CalHEERS grants full scope Medi-Cal and populates the "Eligible Immigrant" indicator with "NO", the eligibility worker will need to access CalHEERS to retrieve any immigration document and/or status information that may have been provided by the applicant. If the necessary information has not been provided, request document and/or immigration status information from the applicant and attempt to verify status through the federal hub or through other Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) access and update SAWS and Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) based on the outcome in accordance with current Medi-Cal policy. Then run the CalHEERS Business Rules Engine (BRE) with the updated information.

Scenario 4
The applicant selects "Document or status not listed" from both the immigration document menu and from the immigration status menu. In this case, CalHEERS will grant restricted scope Medi-Cal if otherwise eligible and will populate the "Eligible Immigrant" indicator with "NO". In this scenario, the applicant must be provided with an MC 13 so that they will have the opportunity to select one of the immigration statuses on that form. If the MC 13 form is returned showing satisfactory immigration status, the individual must be granted full scope eligibility. The 90-day ROP applies when applicable starting from the date the MC 13 form is returned to the county.

TABLE 1

Scenario	Immigration document type and data (such as the A#) is provided to CalHEERS (When provided, this information is sent to SAWS)	An Immigration status is selected in CalHEERS (When selected, this information is not sent to SAWS)	Eligible immigrant indicator (Yes/No) **sent from CalHEERS to SAWS**	CalHEERS Benefits
Overview of Immigration Status and Document Information Transmission After CalHEERS CR 32277 Implementation				
1	Any document type except "Document or status not listed"	Any status except "Document or status not listed"	YES	Full Scope[2]
2	Any document type except "Document or status not listed"	Selected "Document or status not listed"	YES	Full Scope[2]
3	Selected "Document or status not listed"	Any status except "Document or status not listed"	NO	Full Scope[2]
4	Selected "Document or status not listed"	Selected "Document or status not listed"	NO	Restricted Scope (Applicant must be provided an MC 13)

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[2] Full scope eligibility will be granted conditionally if administrative verification of immigration status is necessary.

Administrative Verification of the Immigration Statuses on the Immigration Status Drop-Down Menu
Table 2 below shows which of the immigration statuses included in the new immigration status drop-down menu in CalHEERS are Qualified Non-Citizens, Lawfully Present, or Permanently Residing in the United States Under Color of Law (PRUCOL). When it is necessary for county eligibility workers to administratively verify immigration status for one of the listed statuses, the following rules apply:

- All "Qualified Non-Citizens" are lawfully present. It is critical to send 'PASS' via eHIT for the "Lawful Presence" indicator in CalHEERS to administratively verify immigration status for a Qualified Non-Citizen and for other lawfully present immigrants.

- Send "FAIL" via eHIT for the "Lawful Presence" indicator in CalHEERS when it is necessary to reduce benefits from full scope to restricted scope because Qualified Non-Citizen status or Lawful Presence is not administratively verified within the 90-day ROP.

- To administratively verify immigration status for immigrants who select a PRUCOL status from the status menu, that was previously set to "PASS", but who are not Qualified Non-Citizens and not Lawfully Present, it is necessary to populate the "Lawful Presence" indicator on the CalHEERS manual verification page with "FAIL" and the "PRUCOL" indicator with "PASS".

- To fail administrative verification of immigration status for a PRUCOL immigrant who is not a "Qualified Non-Citizen" when immigration status is not verified, send "FAIL" via eHIT for the "Lawful presence" indicator and populate the manual verification page in CalHEERS with "FAIL" for the PRUCOL indicator (which is currently not in eHIT).

TABLE 2			
Summary of Immigration Statuses Listed In CalHEERS Immigration Status Drop-Down Menu			
Immigration Status From Immigration Status Drop-Down Menu	**Lawful Presence**	**Qualified Non-Citizen**	**PRUCOL**
A conditional entrant admitted to the United States before April 1, 1980	YES	YES	N/A
An alien paroled into the United States, including Cuban/Haitian entrants	YES	YES, if paroled for at least a year and not Cuban/ Haitian	N/A
An alien subject to an Order of Supervision	NO – YES, if they have employment authorization	NO	YES (unless Lawfully Present)
An alien granted an indefinite stay of deportation	NO	NO	YES
An alien granted an indefinite voluntary departure	NO	NO	YES
An alien on whose behalf an immediate relative petition (INS Form I-130) has been approved and who is entitled to voluntary departure	NO	NO	YES
An alien who has properly filed an application for lawful permanent resident status	NO	NO	YES
An alien granted a stay of deportation for a specified period	NO	NO	YES
An alien granted asylum	YES	YES	N/A
A refugee admitted to the United States since April 1, 1980	YES	YES	N/A
An alien granted voluntary departure who is awaiting issuance of a visa	NO	NO	YES
An alien in deferred action status	YES, if not granted under the Deferred Action for Childhood arrivals program (DACA).	NO	YES

TABLE 2 Continued			
Summary of Immigration Statuses Listed In CalHEERS Immigration Status Drop-Down Menu			
Immigration Status From Immigration Status Drop-Down Menu	**Lawful Presence**	**Qualified Non-Citizen**	**PRUCOL**
An alien who entered and has continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1972, who would be eligible for an adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident pursuant to INA Section 249 (eligible as a Registry Alien)	NO	NO	YES
An alien granted suspension of deportation whose departure INS does not contemplate enforcing	NO	NO	YES
An alien granted withholding of deportation pursuant to INA Section 243(h)	YES	YES	N/A
Document or status not listed	NO	NO	NO

Administrative Verification of the Last PRUCOL Category on the MC 13
The eHIT schema does not currently include functionality to administratively verify the last PRUCOL category on the MC 13. This category is for immigrants who claim to be "[a]n alien, not in one of the above categories, who can show that: (1) INS knows he/she is in the United States; and (2) INS does not intend to deport him/her, either because of the person's status category or individual circumstances." Consistent with current policy, when an applicant (or a beneficiary reporting a change) claims this category on a signed MC 13, eligibility workers must administratively fail "Lawful Presence" and must pass "PRUCOL" on the administrative verification page in CalHEERS.

Specific instructions for the process necessary to administratively verify PRUCOL statuses or other immigration statuses, when required, may vary among SAWS consortia.

If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Ms. Amar Singh at (916) 322-9595 or by email at amar.singh@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By:

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